



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

THE DIRECTOR

SEP 1 2000

The Honorable George E. Pataki
Governor of New York
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12202

Dear Governor Pataki:

As you are aware, President Clinton has signed an Emergency Supplemental Appropriation that provides \$13.9 million to address the commercial failure of the Long Island Sound lobster fishery. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) determined the commercial fishery failure under Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA).

According to the Conference Report, \$7.3 million is to be divided equally between New York and Connecticut to provide economic relief. The remaining funds (\$6.6 million) are to be used for research on the causes of the disaster.

Availability of the research funds is contingent on approval of a spending plan submitted to Congress by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). In collaboration with our State and Sea Grant partners, NOAA/NMFS has developed a spending plan for the research portion, which is currently under review in NOAA.

The plans for each State to use \$3.65 million for economic relief do not require similar Congressional approval. However, NMFS will review your spending plan before you submit a grant application to NOAA for the relief funds. Therefore, we request that you designate the agency and individual within your State who will be charged with developing the proposed spending plan and the grant application.

Any proposed program must meet all of the requirements of MSA 312(a). In addition to the required cost share of 25 percent, the proposed program must provide for assistance that is "appropriate" within the meaning of Section 312(a). Therefore, you will need to demonstrate that the proposed program activities will either restore the fishery and assist affected communities, or will prevent a future failure and assist the communities. In addition, the proposed program must not expand the size or scope of the commercial fishery failure in the Long Island Sound lobster fishery or into other fisheries or other geographic regions.

THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
FOR FISHERIES



cc: F/CU-GC-LA-SF-SF2-NER

F/SF2:AJarboe:301-713-2358

The NMFS contact for this funding is Harry Mears at the Northeast Regional Office (telephone 978-281-9243). Please provide him with the name and number of the State agency contact.

We look forward to working with you to expedite getting this much-needed assistance to the Long Island Sound lobster industry.

Sincerely,



for Penelope D. Dalton
Assistant Administrator
for Fisheries